

Message Text

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INFO USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 6531

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CH US

SUBJ: FEI I-MIN ON FORD VISIT

1. AT JUNE 11 LUNCHEON BY CANDIAN COMMISSIONER, ATTENDED BY TWO CONGENOFFS AND ASSORTED, MAINLY COMMONWEALTH, DIPLOMATS AND JOURNALISTS, FEI I-MIN, EDITOR OF THE PRC-OWNED TA KUNG PAO, LINKED PRESIDENT FORD'S SCHEDULED CHINA VISIT WITH THE TAIWAN ISSUE. IN RESPONSE TO A JOURNALIST'S QUESTION, FEI SAID IN HIS OPINION, UNLESS THE PRESIDENT WAS PREPARED TO MOVE TOWARD A SOLUTION OF THE TAIWAN QUESTION, IT WOULD BE A WASTE OF HIS TIME TO MAKE THE TRIP TO PEKING. FEI WAS QUITE EMPHATIC AND WILLING TO EXPOUND ON THE SUBJECT, ARGUING THAT WITH INDOCHINA, FORMERLY THE NUMBER ONE QUESTION IN SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONS, SOLVED, TAIWAN HAD TO BE SOLVED NEXT. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PRC IS PREPARED TO BE PATIENT IF THE US HAS PROBLEMS OVER TAIWAN.

2. AFTERWARDS, THE OTHERS PRESENT REMARKED ON THE CONTRAST BETWEEN FEI'S VIEW AND VICE PREMIER TENG'S RECENT REMARKS TO THE AMERICAN EDITORS' GROUP IN WHICH HE SEEMED TO WARMLY WELCOME THE PRESIDENT WITHOUT CONCERN FOR THE AGENDA. SOME FELT FEI, WHO JUST RETURNED FROM TRAVELING IN CHINA, CONFIDENTIAL

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COULD BE OUT OF TOUCH WITH THE LINE. OTHERS, HOWEVER, WERE

IMPRESSED WITH FEI'S INTERVIEWS WHILE IN CHINA WITH YAO
WEN-YUAN AND CHIAO KUAN-HUA AND THOUGH HE SHOULD BE WELL
INFORMED.

3. COMMENT: IN OUR CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE WITH FEI, WE
JUDGE HIM TO BE WELL INFORMED ON THE PRC LINE, ALTHOUGH
HE HAS LEEWAY IN PLAYING IT FOR DIFFERENT AUDIENCES.
APPARENTLY THERE IS MORE THAN ONE LINE AT PRESENT AND
FEI, WHATEVER HIS AIM, IS DELIBERATELY ENCOURAGING THE
PRESS AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS HERE TO PEG THE VISITS TO US GIVE
ON TAIWAN.
CROSS

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